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MAYOR PEREZ APPOINTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW EFFICIENCY OF CITY'S CORPORATION COUNSEL

Hartford, CT – In order to gain a clearer picture of the operations and day to day practices of the City's *Corporation Counsel Office* (CCO), Mayor Eddie Perez appointed an Advisory Committee in June to review its effectiveness. The committee issued their final report to Mayor Perez for review.

The establishment of the Advisory Committee is also a part of Mayor Perez's plan to enhance government accountability and efficiency. "It's important to always reassess how City Departments are doing over a period of time; the Corporation Counsel Office is no different. The overall goal is not to solely identify the weaknesses of an office or department but to present their strengths as well as opportunities for improvement," said Mayor Perez.

The Committee was charged with interviewing a broad spectrum of individuals which included elected officials, department heads, other key city officials, CCO attorneys, as well as a number of clients served by the Corporation Counsel Office. The Committee also gathered input from neighboring cities such as New Haven and Stamford to provide constructive and insightful comments on how their respective *Corporation Counsel Office* (s) function.

A total of 13 recommendations were made and some of them included:

The position of Corporation Counsel should be a full-time position.

A full-time Corporation Counsel should determine an organizational structure for the CCO that will address the range of clients and the range of functional specialties necessary to meet the City's needs.

The roles of the CCO and the "clients" should be clearly defined and communication between the CCO and the clients regarding assignments should be regular.

The Corporation Counsel should consider developing and implementing a process by which CCO attorneys maintain records of how they are using their time and resources.

The CCO should provide regular updates to the City's decision makers, i.e., the Mayor and the City Council, regarding the status of litigation.

The CCO needs a document management and retention system, including better use of technology.

The CCO should develop the expertise needed to advise policymakers on regulatory and other proceedings that might affect the City's interests.

Appointed Advisory Committee members were:

Daniel I. Papermaster, Committee Chair	Partner, Bingham McCutchen LLP
Burton Kainen	Partner, Kainen, Escalara & McHale P.C.
Paul R. McCary	Partner, Murtha Cullina LLP
Allan B. Taylor	Partner, Day Berry & Howard LLP
Neal S. Wolin	Executive V.P & General Counsel, The Hartford

Mayor Perez would like to thank the Committee for volunteering their time. "It's great when businesses and the City can work in partnership with one another in order for Hartford to continue on a path of progress," stated Mayor Perez.

Copies of the report are available for public review on the City's Website www.hartford.gov or the **Hartford Public Library**.